

VZCZCXRO1717
OO RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHVB #0243 0711527
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 111527Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8747
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 000243

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2018

TAGS: PREL HR KO

SUBJECT: CROATIA NOW INTENDS TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO ON OR AROUND MARCH 19, IN COORDINATION WITH HUNGARY AND PERHAPS OTHERS

REF: ZAGREB 171

Classified By: Rick Holtzapple, POL/ECON, Reasons 1.4 B/D

(C) Ambassador spoke with Croatian FM Jandrovic on March 11 seeking an update on Croatian plans to recognize Kosovo (reftel). Jandrovic said that the GoC planned to recognize Kosovo "next week", and was planning to do so in coordination with at least Hungary. Jandrovic said that Croatia hoped to coordinate its recognition with Bulgaria and Macedonia as well, but that it appeared unlikely either country would be able to move forward in time to join Croatia and Hungary. In a conversation with POLCOUNS the previous evening (March 10), Neven Pelicaric, Assistant FM with responsibility for SE Europe, said the GoC's current target date for recognition was March 19, and he was fairly sure it would be "before Easter" (i.e., March 23) and that Croatia would very much like to be in a "group of three or four countries." He added that he was still hopeful that Bulgaria or Macedonia might join the group. He said he was trying to persuade his Macedonian counterpart that it would be better to recognize Kosovo as a country first, then sign an agreement on the outstanding border issues, but he was uncertain how Skopje would proceed.

Bradtko